

AMENDMENT

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing early cardiovascular disease~~[[,]]~~ comprising ~~providing contact between~~(a) contacting a sample of body fluid ~~and~~with phosphocholine and/or a derivative thereof, (b) assessing the presence and/or concentration of antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the sample of ~~body fluid~~by measuring antibodies bound to phosphocholine and/or derivative thereof, and (c) ~~evaluating said~~diagnosing early cardiovascular disease based on the presence and/or concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in the ~~sample of body fluid as an indicator of cardiovascular disease.~~
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~diagnosis of a~~early cardiovascular disease comprises ~~diagnosis of the risk of~~atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring said ~~antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by~~comprises an immunoassay.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring said ~~antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by~~comprises an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring said ~~antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative by~~comprises a radioimmunoassay.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in~~wherein said body fluid is serum prepared from a blood sample.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in~~wherein said body fluid is plasma prepared from a blood sample.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative ~~by~~comprises an immunoassay.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative ~~by~~comprises an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising~~wherein measuring antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative ~~by~~comprises a radioimmunoassay.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or said derivative in~~wherein said body fluid is serum prepared from a blood sample.
12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~comprising measuring the concentration of said antibodies to phosphocholine and/or to said derivative in~~wherein said body fluid is plasma prepared from a blood sample.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~sample of~~ body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said ~~measurement is by~~measuring ~~comprises~~comprises ~~an~~ immunoassay.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~2, wherein said derivative is ~~phosphorycholine~~lysophosphatidylcholine.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said derivative is lysophosphatidylcholine.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said derivative is ~~phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine~~.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said derivative is ~~phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine~~.
19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said derivative is ~~phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine~~.
20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said derivative is ~~phosphocholine, phosphorycholine or lysophosphatidylcholine~~.
21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.
22. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.
23. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.
24. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.
25. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.
26. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said body fluid is contacted with phosphocholine.